

***California Commission on Aging***  
***Operational Plan***  
***2007-2009***

***The overarching purpose of the 2007-2009 Operational Plan is  
to assist the CCoA in shaping aging policies and programs  
that meet the needs of older Californians today and in the future.***

Approved August 13, 2007

## ***Who Is the California Commission on Aging?***

The California Commission on Aging (CCoA) was established in 1973 by the Burton Act in response to Older Americans Act guidance. The Commission was confirmed in the original Older Californians Act of 1980 and its duties reconfirmed in the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act of 1996.

According to California statute, the Commission is to serve as “***the principal advocate in the state on behalf of older individuals, including, but not limited to, advisory participation in the consideration of all legislation and regulations made by state and federal departments and agencies relating to programs and services that affect older individuals.***” As such, the CCoA is the principal advisory body to the Governor, State Legislature, and State, Federal and local departments and agencies on issues affecting older Californians. The Commission is committed to working in cooperative partnerships with a variety of other advocacy organizations.

The Commission is a 25-member body appointed by the Governor, Assembly Speaker and Chair of the Senate Rules Committee.

## ***Focus Areas of the Operational Plan***

The CCoA is charged with holding meetings around the state, considering the views of Older Californians and calling together state leadership in order to influence programs and services for older Californians. These mandates helped shape the action steps the Commission will take in achieving their 2007-2009 objectives.

The Operational Plan was created by the Commission following planning sessions in June and August, 2007. It focuses on five priority areas consistent with statutory responsibilities as identified in Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 9200-9205.

To address the policy and program challenges of today's older adults and plan for the impact that changing demographics and diversity will have on our state, the Commission will enhance state-wide advocacy efforts, create a stronger advisory voice and disseminate relevant information. The efforts of individual Commissioners will be better utilized, particularly in the areas of advocacy and promotions. In addition, the Commission's meeting format and committee structure will be evaluated periodically.

## ***California Commission on Aging Operational Plan 2007-2009***

***The overarching purpose of the 2007-2009 Operational Plan is to assist the CCoA in shaping aging policies and programs that meet the needs of older Californians today and in the future.***

**Objective 1: Enhance CCoA advocacy efforts through (a) thoughtful analysis of Legislation and emerging policy issues; (b) maintenance or initiation of coalitions; (c) forging a stronger partnership with disability advocacy organizations; and (d) evaluating the effects of State Plans on the delivery of services to older adults.**

- Sponsor and/or take positions on legislation and policies affecting older Californians and adults with disabilities, including recommending Executive Orders.
- Participate in coalitions that foster development or implementation of legislation or policy issues that enhance services to older Californians, adults with disabilities, and caregivers.
- Distribute the *Strategic Plan for an Aging California Population 2<sup>nd</sup> Progress Report* to members of the Legislature by January 15, 2008.
- Forge a stronger partnership with the State Independent Living Council utilizing outcomes from February 2008 joint meeting.
- Hold April 2008 CCoA meeting concurrently with the Coordinated Leadership Conference.
- Focus evaluation/monitoring efforts on statutory responsibilities related to the State Plan on Aging.
- Dedicate one of the field hearings to advocacy and/or sponsor a workshop on advocacy.

**Objective 2: Fulfill CCoA's advisory responsibilities through (a) frequent communication with California Department of Aging (CDA); (b) inclusion of other state entities in meetings; and (c) attendance at or provision of testimony at venues where older adult issues are discussed.**

- Invite CDA Director to participate in CCoA meetings on a regular basis and as relevant, incorporate other state entities in CCoA meetings/hearings, consistent with Standing Rules.
- Promote an interactive approach to the monitoring of the *2005-2009 State Plan on Aging*.
- Request CDA briefing on the 2010 State Plan on Aging; develop recommendations for CCoA inclusion in the process; and co-sponsor hearings with CDA.
- Identification of state-wide policy, programs and regulations requiring updating or revision and foster initiatives for change.

**Objective 3: Identify opportunities to prepare, publish and disseminate information addressing a variety of aging issues to all Californians**

- Create position papers and/or recommendations following public hearings or other activities.
- Provide materials and promote discussion on the state's efforts to plan for the baby boomer population.
- Maintain regularly updated website and review external websites for CCoA links.

**Objective 4: Enhance CCoA effectiveness by (a) selecting meeting locations and formats that allow for meaningful study of needs and development of recommended program or policy change; (b) build on CCoA's Committee Structure; and (c) increase understanding of the state's diversity.**

- Sponsor a minimum of four public hearings each year with at least two of the hearings focusing on a similar topic.
- Evaluate public hearing format to encourage increased dialogue with stakeholders and constituents.

- Continue with rotational meetings around the State to better understand the state's diversity and to promote policy changes that are inclusive of such diversity.
- Structure special and ad hoc Committees to respond to changing focus.

**Objective 5: Encourage greater Commissioner participation and advocacy**

- Each Commissioner will serve on a minimum of one CCoA committee.
- Commissioners will arrange field meetings with state-level Legislators and Area Agency on Aging Directors.
- Commission will coordinate a "Capitol Visit to Appointing Authorities."
- Commissioners will utilize CCoA Annual Report and other materials in presentations to local community organizations.
- Commissioners will assist staff with media relations and marketing of meetings to be held in their locale.

**Objective 6: Ensure appropriate and effective administration of CCoA and Triple-A Council of California (TACC) statutory responsibilities**

- Annual review and update of administrative procedures and activities.
- Maintain updated CCoA Orientation Manual and TACC Policy Manual.
- Prepare and publish a CCoA Annual Report for 2006-2007.
- Promote representative diversity on the Commission.